

Humber Field Archaeology

Archaeological Consultants and Contractors



Archaeological Observation
Investigation and Recording

at

Church Lane
Marshchapel
Lincolnshire

Site Code: CLM16

National Grid Reference: TF 3599 9872

HFA Code: WB2016.027

Planning Reference: N/118/00654/16

Museum Reference: LCNCC: 2016.152

for

Mrs M. Tillett

Watching Brief Report Number: 1500
March 2017

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D. Jobling, N. Adamson, March 2017

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Summary

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork and excavation associated with a new dwelling at Church lane, Marshchapel, Lincolnshire. Although the site is located within an area with a high potential for the presence of below ground historical assets, nothing of significant archaeological significance was seen during the course of the works. The stratigraphy exposed consisted of natural depositional layers, with two ceramic land drains crossing the building footprint from north to south and from west to east. A possible pit was evident at the south-east of the plot, but could not be investigated due to unstable ground conditions. An associated service trench leading to the new dwelling only exposed natural stratigraphy also. There were no artefacts evident, or recovered, during the course of the programme of observation and recording.

1. Introduction

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology, on behalf of Mrs M. Tillett, during groundwork associated with the construction of a new dwelling and associated infrastructure on land at Church Lane, Marshchapel, Lincolnshire. (Figure 1, Plate 1).

Site Code:	CLM16
National Grid Reference:	TF 3599 9872
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Museum Reference:	LCNCC: 2016.152
HFA Code:	WB2016.027

The site lies at the southern end of the village of Marshchapel, and south of St Mary's Church. The site is bounded by a lane to the north, residential properties to the west and commercial premises to the south and east.

2. Planning Background

The following background information is taken from the planning document issued by Lincolnshire County Council Historic Environment Record Team (LHER), the local planning authority, in response to an application submitted by the developers/builders:

Planning permission has been granted for the erection of a house and construction of a vehicular and pedestrian access subject to conditions. The following relate to archaeology:

3. No development shall take place until a written scheme of archaeological investigation has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority. This scheme should include the following:

1. An assessment of significance and proposed mitigation strategy (i.e. preservation by record, preservation in situ or a mix of these elements).
2. A methodology and timetable of site investigation and recording
3. Provision for site analysis
4. Provision for publication and dissemination of analysis and records
5. Provision for archive deposition
6. Nomination of a competent person/organisation to undertake the work

The scheme of archaeological investigation must only be undertaken in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure the preparation and implementation of an appropriate scheme of archaeological mitigation in accordance with paragraphs 128 and 129 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

4. The archaeological site work must be undertaken only in full accordance with the approved written scheme referred to in the above Condition. The applicant will notify the Local Planning Authority of the intention to commence at least fourteen days before the start of archaeological work in order to facilitate adequate monitoring arrangements. No variation shall take place without prior consent of the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory arrangements are made for the recording of possible archaeological remains in accordance with paragraphs 128 and 129 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

5. A report of the archaeologist's findings shall be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Historic Environment Record Officer at Lincolnshire County Council within 3 months of the works hereby given consent being commenced unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and the condition shall not be discharged until the archive of all archaeological work undertaken hitherto has been deposited with the County Museum Service, or another public depository willing to receive it.

Reason: In order to ensure that satisfactory arrangements are made for the investigation, retrieval and recording of any possible archaeological remains on the site and in accordance with paragraphs 128 and 129 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

3. Archaeological Background

Geology and topography

The site lies between 2m to 3m OD. The soil in this area consists of loamy and clayey soils of coastal flats with naturally high groundwater, (<http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/>) overlying the Tidal Flats deposits of clay sand and gravel over the bedrock of Chalk of the Burnham Chalk Formation (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

Archaeological and historical background

The settlement of Marshchapel has its origins in the medieval period and was known as Fullstowe Merske in the early 13th century. The name means 'the marsh owned by Fulstow'. It was first referred to as Mersch Chapel in 1347, which is named after the chapel located in the marsh. Marshchapel originally comprised dispersed seasonal huts based around the salt making industry. A Sunday market was recorded in 1423 and in 1563 although listed as part of Fulstow parish, was a village in its own right with 55 households. By the early 18th century there were 60 families and the vicar moved from Fulstow to Marshchapel in 1712. The parish was enclosed in 1841.

Medieval ridge and furrow has been recorded at several locations around the village. To the south of the village at West End in the field known as 'Burnt Mound' medieval pottery has been disturbed by ploughing. Geophysical survey produced evidence for possible industrial activity involving burning here.

The proposed development site is adjacent to St Mary's, a listed parish church built in 1420 which was restored in the 19th century, with a scheduled 14th century butter cross in its churchyard. This area would have been a focal point for the Medieval village and it is quite likely that archaeological deposits may be disturbed by the development.

4. Methodology

The work associated with this project was carried out by staff from Humber Field Archaeology, in accordance with a site-specific project design produced by HFA (Atkinson 2016).

The scheme of works comprised the continuous monitoring of the overburden strip and the excavation of the strip foundation trenches within the proposed building's footprint and a single, associated service trench. Two full-day visits were made to site on the 25th January and 13th February 2017 during which time the above works were completed.

Any exposed areas of subsoil and lower stratigraphic units were examined for archaeological deposits. The excavated dimensions of the foundation trenches were recorded, as were the depth sequences of any exposed stratigraphy. Where archaeological deposits/features were identified, context numbers were assigned and detailed descriptions were made, plans and sections were drawn and a photographic record was maintained.

5. Results

Following stripping of the overlying topsoil overburden and levelling of the site, the foundation trenches for the building footprint were excavated using a mechanical back-hoe excavator fitted with a toothed bucket 0.60m wide (Plates 1 and 2). The footprint covered an area measuring 13.2m SW-NE and 13.3m SE-NW (181.7m²) (Figure 2, Figure 3 – S.1)

The stratigraphy exposed consisted of the following contexts:

(4) A soft grey-brown slightly sand silt deposit, with no obvious inclusions. This was at least 0.80m thick, and was taken to be the underlying natural. A tubular ceramic land drain was evident within this layer, appearing to run roughly south-west to north-east, along a similar orientation to the foundation trench. This drain lay at around 1.20m depth below the stripped ground surface. Overlying this was context:

(3) An orange-brown slightly silt clay deposit between 0.25m and 0.35m thick. There were no obvious inclusions within this layer, which was overlain by:

(2) A dark grey-brown friable humic silt layer, between 0.25m and 0.35m thick. This was in turn overlain by:

(1) Friable to loose grey-brown clay silt layer, which varied between around 0.15m thick at the north-east of the building footprint, to 0.40m at the south-east; this depth was due to the presence of upcast from the excavation of the ornamental pond at the extreme south-west of the site.

The footings trenches varied between 1.50m deep at the south-west corner of the building footprint, and 1m within the centre of the site, to allow for soft ground. The

builders found it necessary to use a submersible pump to deal with the ground water which was seeping into the trench.

Within the exposed trench sections at the south-west of the site was what appeared to be a pit or ditch; it was not possible to investigate fully, owing to the problems caused by collapsing trench sides; this was largely due to issues with the ground water ingress.

The potential feature (5) (Plate 3) appeared to be around 2m or so wide at the top, and at least 1m deep, and sealed below the subsoil (2). The potential feature was defined more by the dark material within than by appearing to be a definite cut feature; collapsing trench sides prevented full recording of this feature, however, its position is marked on Figure 2. The suggested interpretation is that it may be a pit (illustrated), but could have also been a linear feature, not readily defined during the onsite investigation.

A service trench, 29.50m long and 0.6m wide ran from the N corner of the plot in a north-westerly direction to an extant manhole (Figure 2, Figure 3 – S.2, Plate 4). The service trench ranged in depth from 0.05m at the west to 1m deep at the east. The deposits exposed consisted of the topsoil (1) which overlay subsoil (2) (in places) which in turn overlay deposit (3). No archaeological features were seen during this phase of the work.

The access to the site consisted of a stretch of land which is extremely rutted and disturbed. It is the intention of the building contractor to level off the access route (no below ground excavation) and construction the permanent access above ground, which therefore requires no additional archaeological monitoring.

The remaining work at the site consist of building up the ground level in places and no further significant below ground excavation is anticipated around the house plot. At this point, the programme of the work was terminated.

6. Discussion

The following is solely the opinion of Humber Field Archaeology, and may not reflect that of LHER, archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA).

Barring the potential pit-like feature (LOCAL significance only) in the SW corner of the footings, and currently, it is not possible to confirm that it *is* an archaeological feature, no other deposits were recorded other than naturally occurring strata at the site.

The methodology for the works appears to have been sufficient for this level of building work. The excavations for the house plot and conjoined service trench were monitored, being the only below ground excavations being undertaken at the site.

7. Acknowledgements

Thanks are accorded to Mrs M. Tillett and J. Brooks and staff for help and co-operation during the course of this project.

The work was carried out in accordance with a specification prepared by HFA. The report was edited by Doug Jobling and Dave Atkinson, administrative support was provided by Georgina Richardson. The site work was undertaken by the authors.

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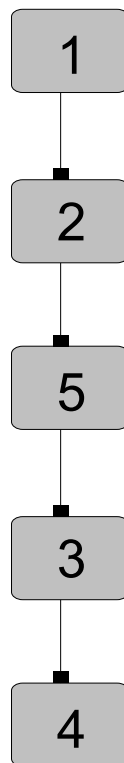
Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1

Context list and matrix

- 1 – Topsoil, friable to loose grey-brown clay silt, 0.15-0.4m thick
- 2 – Subsoil, dark grey-brown friable humic silt layer, between 0.25m and 0.35m thick
- 3 – Natural clays, orange-brown slightly silt clay between 0.25m and 0.35m thick.
- 4 – Natural silts, soft grey-brown slightly sand silt, with no obvious inclusions, greater than 0.8m thick
- 5 – Potential pit feature, 2m wide, 1m deep



Appendix 2

Photographic register

photo index				
Photograph	Site Code	Digital	Direction of view	Description
1	WB2016.027	1	NE	House plot marked out
2	WB2016.027	2	N	House plot marked out
3	WB2016.027	3	W	Excavation of the house plot
4	WB2016.027	4	S	Excavation of the house plot
5	WB2016.027	5	NW	Excavation of the house plot
6	WB2016.027	6	NW	Excavation of the house plot
7	WB2016.027	7	NW	Excavation of the house plot
8	WB2016.027	8	NW	Excavation of the house plot
9	WB2016.027	9	SE	Trench profile
10	WB2016.027	10	E	Trench profile
11	WB2016.027	11	E	Trench profile
12	WB2016.027	12	NE	Excavation of the house plot
13	WB2016.027	13	SE	Excavation of the house plot
14	WB2016.027	14	SW	Excavation of the house plot
15	WB2016.027	15	SW	Excavation of the house plot
16	WB2016.027	16	SW	Excavation of the house plot
17	WB2016.027	17	SW	Excavation of the house plot
18	WB2016.027	18	NE	Excavation of the house plot
19	WB2016.027	19	W	Excavation of the house plot
20	WB2016.027	20	NE	Collapsing trenches
21	WB2016.027	21	N	Collapsing trenches
22	WB2016.027	22	E	Collapsing trenches
23	WB2016.027	23	N	Excavation of the house plot
24	WB2016.027	24	N	Excavation of the house plot
25	WB2016.027	25	SE	Trench profile
26	WB2016.027	26	SE	Trench profile
27	WB2016.027	27	NW	Trench profile
28	WB2016.027	28	NW	Trench profile
29	WB2016.027	29	W	Trench profile
30	WB2016.027	30	NE	Site of development
31	WB2016.027	31	NE	Site of development
32	WB2016.027	32	SE	Service trench excavations
33	WB2016.027	33	NE	Service trench profile
34	WB2016.027	34	SE	Service trench excavations
35	WB2016.027	35	NE	Service trench profile
36	WB2016.027	36	NW	Service trench excavations
37	WB2016.027	37	NW	Service trench excavations

Appendix 3 OASIS Form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Manage Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

[Printable version](#)

OASIS ID: humberfi2-278176

Project details

Project name	Church Lane, Marshchapel, East Lindsey
Short description of the project	A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork and excavation associated with a new dwelling at Church lane, Marshchapel, Lincolnshire. Although the site is located within an area with a high potential for the presence of below ground historical assets, nothing of significant archaeological significance was seen during the course of the works. The stratigraphy exposed consisted of natural depositional layers, with two ceramic land drains crossing the building footprint from north to south and from west to east. A possible pit or ditch was evident at the south-east of the plot, but could not be investigated due to unstable ground conditions. An associated service trench leading to the new dwelling only exposed natural stratigraphy also. There were no artefacts evident, or recovered, during the course of the programme of observation and recording.
Project dates	Start: 25-01-2017 End: 03-03-2017
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Any associated project reference codes	CLM16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	N/118/00654/16 - Planning Application No.
Any associated project reference codes	WB2016.027 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	LCNCC: 2016.152 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF

Project location

Country	England
Site location	LINCOLNSHIRE EAST LINDSEY MARSH CHAPEL Church Lane, Marshchapel, East Lindsey, Lincolnshire
Postcode	DN36 5TW
Study area	0.1 Hectares

Site coordinates TF 3599 9872 53.467357375021 0.048878887919 53 28 02 N 000 02 55 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Humber Field Archaeology
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator Humber Field Archaeology
Project director/manager David Atkinson
Project supervisor D Jobling
Type of sponsor/funding body Landowner
Name of sponsor/funding body developer

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No
Digital Archive recipient Humber Field Archaeology
Digital Archive ID WB2016.027
Digital Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey","none"
Digital Media available "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Digital Archive notes The digital archive remains with HFA and is stored on Hull City Council servers
Paper Archive recipient The Collection Lincolnshire County Council
Paper Archive ID LCNCC: 2016.152
Paper Contents "Stratigraphic","Survey","none"
Paper Media available "Correspondence","Drawing","Map","Matrices","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Unpublished Text","Unspecified Archive"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title Archaeological monitoring and recording at Church Lane, Marshchapel, East Lindsey, Lincolnshire
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Appendix 4

Archive pro forma

Project Details: Archaeological observation, investigation and recording at Church Lane, Marshchapel, Lincolnshire

Site Code: CLM2016

HFA Code: WB2016.027

National Grid Reference: TF 3599 9872

Planning Reference: N/118/00654/16

Museum Reference: LCNCC: 2016.152

Author: D. Jobling, N. Adamson **Date of fieldwork:** January – February 2017

Report Number: Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 1500, March 2017

Quantity

4 x A4 clear plastic wallets contain the paper archive

Summary of work

A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology during groundwork and excavation associated with a new dwelling at Church lane, Marshchapel, Lincolnshire. Although the site is located within an area with a high potential for the presence of below ground historical assets, nothing of significant archaeological significance was seen during the course of the works. The stratigraphy exposed consisted of natural depositional layers, with two ceramic land drains crossing the building footprint from north to south and from west to east. A possible pit or ditch was evident at the south-east of the plot, but could not be investigated due to unstable ground conditions. An associated service trench leading to the new dwelling exposed natural stratigraphy also. There were no artefacts evident, or recovered, during the course of the programme of observation and recording.

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- 1.2 Archaeological scheme of works
- 1.3 Consultee comments for planning application
- 1.4 Planning permission application copy and Full Planning Permission decision notice
- 1.5 OASIS form
- 1.6 Correspondance

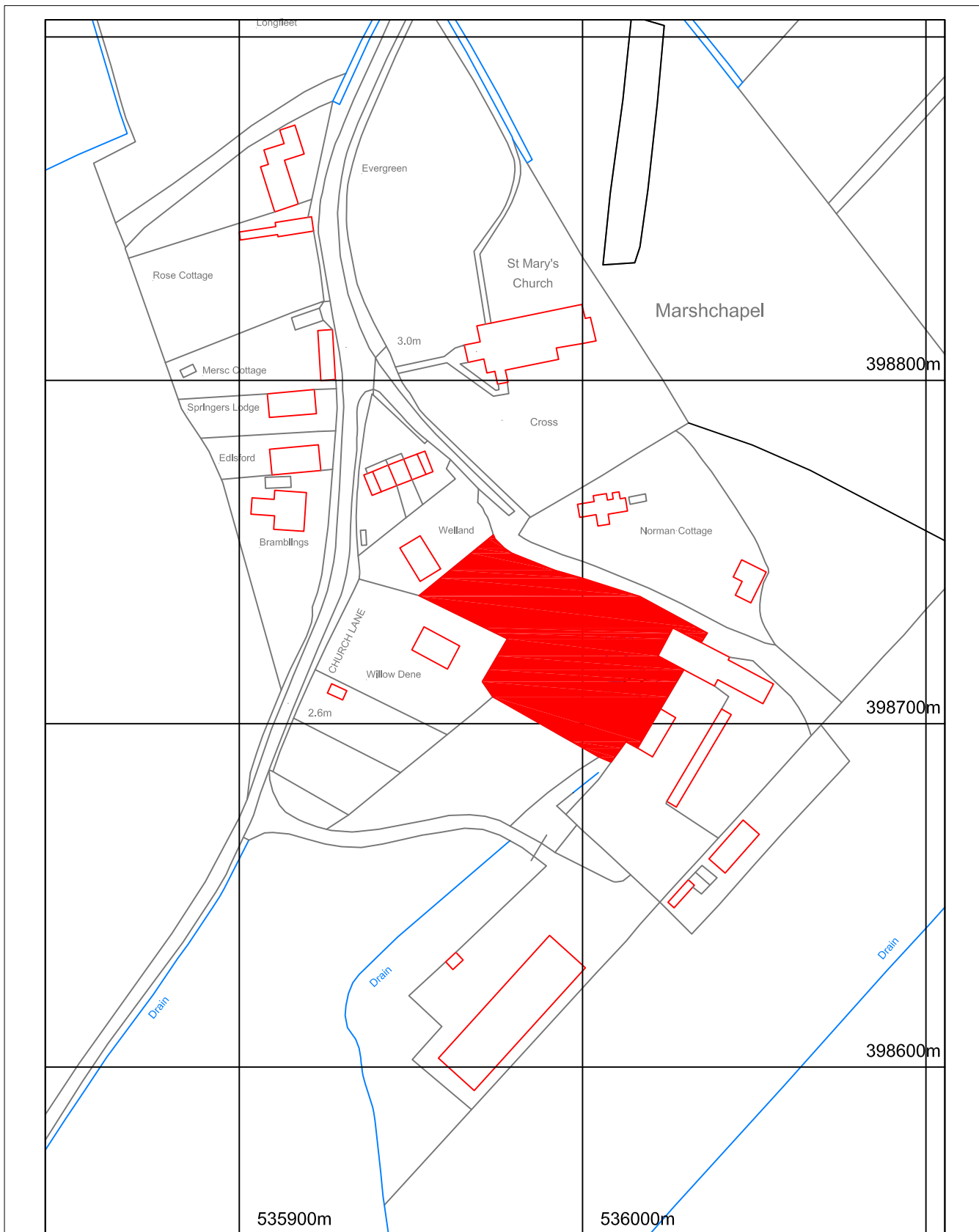
2 Site Data:

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- 2.3 Site drawings

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- 3.2 Contact Sheets
- 3.3 Reference Prints

4. Final Report: Archaeological observation, investigation and recording at Church Lane, Marshchapel, Lincolnshire. Humber Field Archaeology Watching Brief Report Number 1500, March 2017



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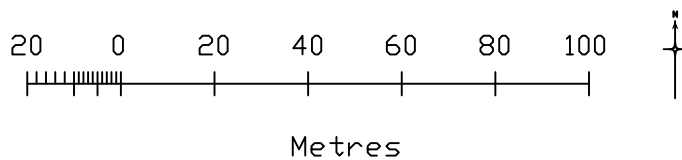
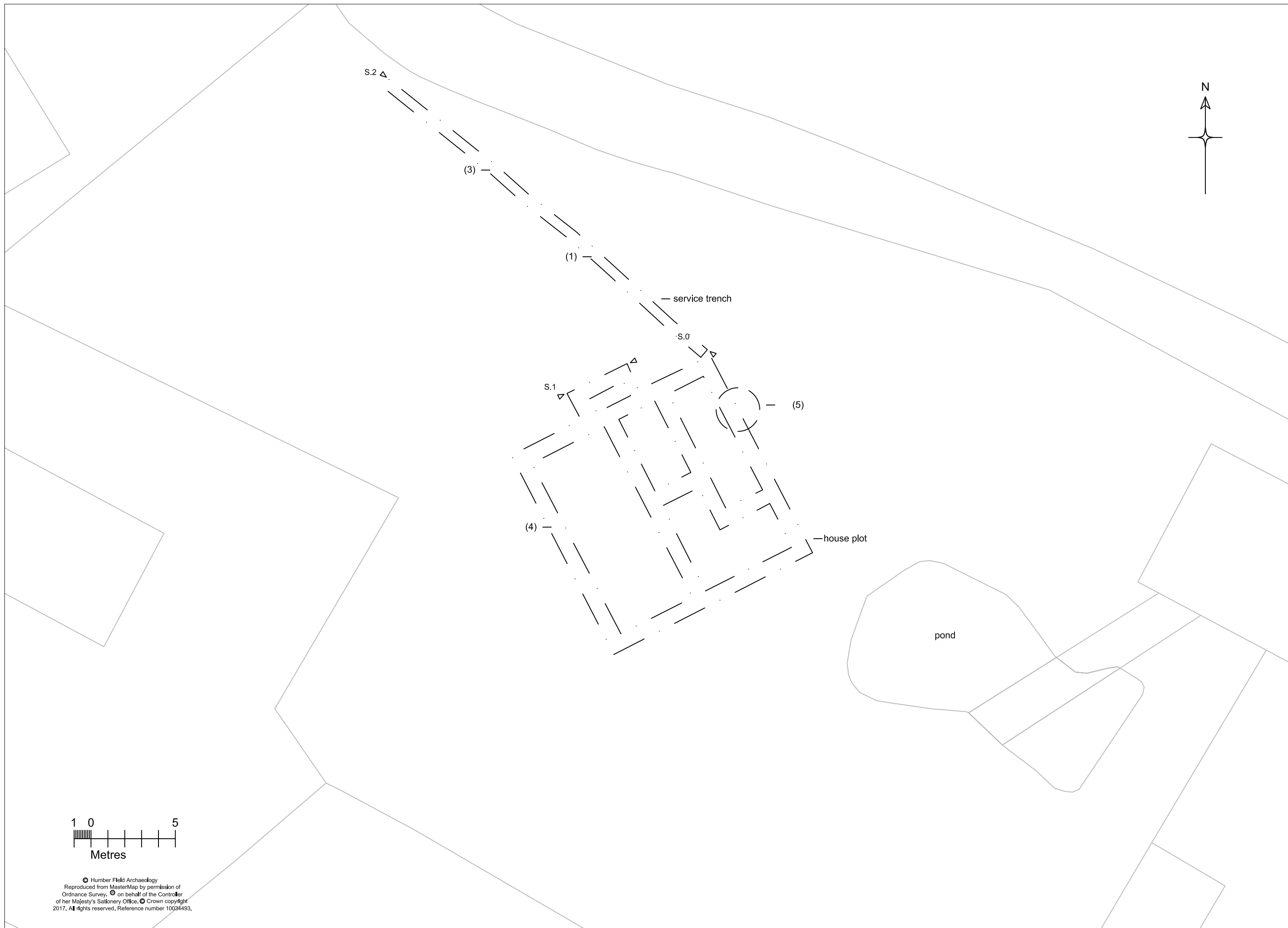


Figure 1 Site location plan



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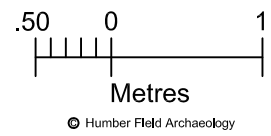
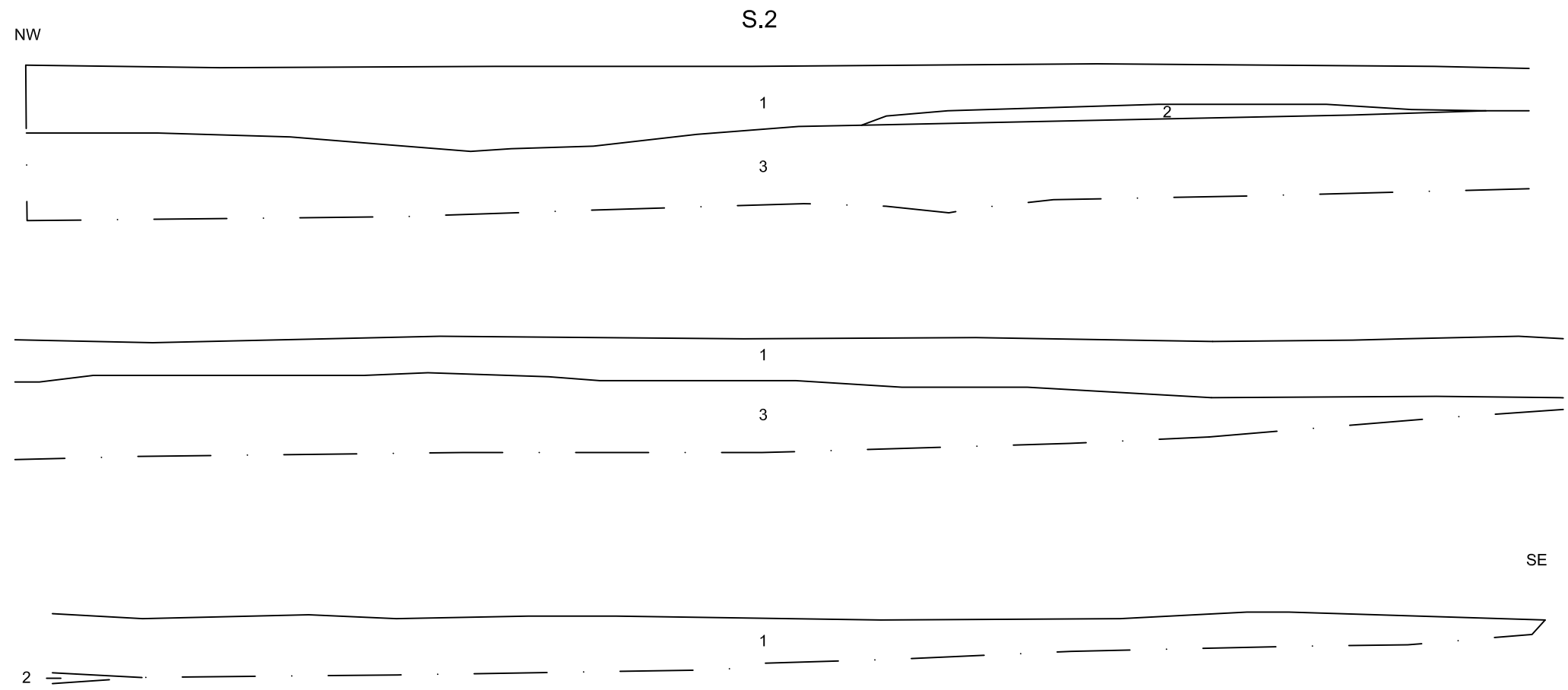
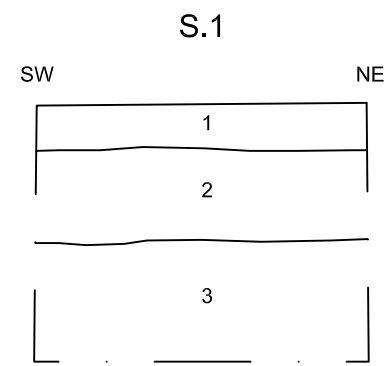




Plate 1 The site of the development, looking from the S



Plate 2 The outer edges of the plot during excavation, looking W



Plate 3 Showing the collapse area in the E corner of the trenches, looking NE



Plate 4 The main service/waste trench, looking NW

Humber Field Archaeology

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Project Management • Desk-based Assessment • Field Survey • Fieldwork • Finds Research
• Post-excavation Analysis • Inter-tidal Work

Humber Field Archaeology is an independently-funded part of the Humber Archaeology Partnership, a partnership serving The East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Kingston upon Hull City Council